

District-Wide Policies

6

Several policies apply across the entire Gallatin Gateway Planning Jurisdiction. These policies are:

- 6.1 Fire and Emergency Services**
- 6.2 Gallatin Gateway School**
- 6.3 Pedestrian and Trail opportunities**
- 6.4 Signs and Billboards**
- 6.5 Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan**
- 6.6 Night Sky**
- 6.7 Connections**
- 6.8 Recommended Speed Controls**
- 6.9 Sexually-Oriented Businesses**

Policy 6.1. Fire and Emergency Services

Ensure continued provision of adequate fire and emergency services.

- 6.1.1 Planning for hydrant placement in the Town Core should include the Fire Department.**

If a Gallatin Gateway Sewer and/or Water District becomes a reality over the next few years, any discussion of hydrant placement throughout the Town Core should include the Gateway Rural Fire Department.

- 6.1.2 Explore the possibility of addressing a reduced Fire Suppression Rating from ISO for portions of the fire district.**

With the addition of new apparatus over the past few years, the Fire Department should explore the possibility of addressing a lower ISO rating for portions of the fire district.

6.1.3 Cooperate with the County Road Department and the County GIS Department to rename the southernmost portion of Portnell Road.

There is currently some confusion for emergency services regarding the southernmost portion of Portnell Road. As houses are built on existing Certificates of Survey in this area, the potential for more confusion and conflicts increases. The Fire Department should cooperate with the County Road Department and the County GIS Department to rename the southern portion of the road.

6.1.4 Consider provisions to add career staff as the need dictates.

The number of calls the Fire Department is responding to is nearing an average of one per day. The current staff is all volunteer, but as the community grows and the volume of calls increase, the Fire Department should engage the community in discussions about adding career staff as the need dictates.

6.1.5 If traffic lights are installed anywhere in the jurisdiction, pre-emptive traffic devices should be installed to allow emergency vehicles access.

6.1.6 The Zoning Regulation adopted to implement this plan should consider height requirements and building separation for new buildings that can adequately be served by the Fire Department (i.e., ladder height, etc.)

6.1.7 Any variances to road standards in new subdivisions should be routed to the Fire Department for comment.

6.1.9 Two bridges in the planning jurisdiction, the Axtell-Gateway bridge and the West Williams bridge, do not meet weight capacities for fire engines and water tender. New development using these bridges shall be required to participate in improvements to the bridges.

6.1.9 New commercial structures should contact the Fire Department for Knox boxes.

Knox boxes allow fire department members to access buildings by a secure key system rather than creating damage to doors in order to allow access for fire suppression or investigation.

Policy 6.2. Gallatin Gateway School

The community and Gallatin County should actively explore options to help the Gallatin Gateway School expand as new growth occurs in the Downtown Core.

The Gallatin Gateway School is one of the foundations of Historic Gateway. The original school building was constructed in 1914 and has provided education for the community since its inception. Currently, grades K-8 attend the school.

School enrollment has increased consistently over the past 20 years, and recent discussions have raised the following issues:

- Current enrollment leaves very little room for expansion in the current school due to issues with space;
- Parts of the original building do not meet state building codes, making full utilization of the building difficult;
- The school is served by a well and septic system that is at capacity;
- Federal law requires a certain percentage of playground space per student. Any significant rise in enrollment will require an expansion in the amount of playground space for the school.
- There are almost 300 buildable lots in the Gateway School District that are currently empty. Even with no new subdivision, there is significant potential for growth in the area that will affect public facilities such as the school.

In light of these issues, the following policies are suggested:

- 6.2.1 Gallatin Gateway School District has prepared a school facilities inventory to prepare for new students. The School District should continue this work and develop a school facilities Master Plan, including infrastructure, utilities, and service requirements projections.
- 6.2.2 Gallatin Gateway School should work with the School Superintendent to ensure an annual discussion with the Board of County Commissioners regarding the status of the school and growth in the area.
- 6.2.C GG School District should request a voluntary school impact fee from new residential development. Additionally, major subdivisions shall provide a school mitigation plan to discuss impacts on the Gateway School and potential solutions.
- 6.2.D New development in the Gallatin Gateway area should confer with the Gallatin Gateway School District to discuss mitigation measures (see also Policy 7.4 for more discussion of infrastructure concurrency).

Policy 6.3 Pedestrian and Trail Opportunities

Explore opportunities to provide pedestrian and other trail opportunities within the core. Specifically:

6.3.1 Explore opportunities to provide pedestrian trails along major Roads.

Many of the secondary roads in Gallatin Gateway are used by residents for various recreational pursuits, such as walking, riding horses, bicycling, and cross-country skiing. Developments that add considerable traffic to the roads should mitigate their impact by providing for trails within or adjacent to the development so that residents can continue to enjoy these pursuits safely.

6.3.2 Expand the pedestrian trail on the East side of Highway 191.

The underpass provides a pedestrian connection to the historic downtown for properties on the east side of Highway 191. New development within the core and along Highway 191 should provide pedestrian connections where possible to the existing trail and underpass. This includes extending the trail both to the north and the south, but also investigating options for expanding pedestrian opportunities along Mill Street to the Gallatin River. Expansion of this trail should consider not only bicycle and pedestrian travel, but also equestrian travel.

6.3.C Explore options for a pedestrian trail west of Highway 191.

As property develops along the West side of 191, the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian trail along highway frontage should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Policy 6.4 Signs and Billboards

One of the primary concerns for residents has been the proliferation of billboards in the Gateway vicinity. As of the drafting of the plan, 14 billboards were located between the mouth of the canyon and Zachariah Lane. The development standards will include a sign provision prohibiting new billboards, explore options for a sunset clause for existing billboards, and establish size and design criteria for signs along Highway 191.

Policy 6.5 Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan

The Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan has jurisdiction that includes the Gallatin Gateway Planning area. Many of the design standards and transportation guidelines are generally supportive of the vision described by this plan. This policy urges the Gallatin County Commission to adopt the Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan and implement those policies as development occurs. For more

information on the Transportation Plan, please contact the Gallatin County Planning Department.

Policy 6.6 Night Sky

Protect the night sky by adopting lighting standards for commercial uses, billboards, and signs.

Much of the rural nature of the Gallatin Gateway area can be attributed to the visibility of the night sky, as consistently expressed by the community. To preserve and protect this element of the Gateway community, lighting standards for commercial uses, billboards, and signs will be drafted as part of the zoning regulations adopted to implement this plan. Additionally, any street lighting constructed in the planning jurisdiction shall comply with applicable lighting standards to protect the night sky.

Policy 6.7 Connections

Multiple points of access will be required to most developments. Additionally, safe, functional connections between neighborhoods, and within residential and commercial areas and public places, will be required.

6.7.1 Require Connectivity as a Condition of Development Approval.

Commercial and residential developments must have safe, functional access for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists through the site. They should also have safe, functional connections with adjoining developments.

Benefits of safe, functional connections between neighborhoods between neighborhoods via roads and sidewalks, paths, and trails include the following:

- Having multiple points of access to a neighborhood can be important during emergencies;
- Facilitating movement from one part of the community to another via local roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails can reduce congestion on arterial roads and major connectors. It also encourages walking and cycling;
- Connecting neighborhoods promotes a sense of community throughout town;
- Providing multiple connections, including sidewalks and paths, can facilitate safe movement of school children to either of the two schools in the community.

Policy 6.8 Recommended Speed Controls

The Gallatin County Road Department should consider extending the 25 mph speed zone on Mill Street to the west to the intersection with Cottontail Road, Axtell-Gateway Road, and Gateway South Road. Additionally, given the number of residences and the potential traffic from gravel pits, the County Road Department should examine the possibility of designating Gateway South Road as 35 mph.

Policy 6.9 Sexually-Oriented Businesses

A prevalent concern of area residents is the potential for undesirable commerce. Sexually-oriented businesses should be prohibited within the Gallatin Gateway planning jurisdiction.